



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

February 7, 2003

S. 144

Noxious Weed Control Act of 2003

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on February 5, 2003*

SUMMARY

S. 144 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to provide grants to states and Indian tribes to support projects to control or eradicate noxious weeds on public and private lands. CBO estimates that the proposed program would cost \$3 million in 2003 and \$278 million over the 2003-2008 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. The bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 144 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Any costs incurred by those governments to comply with the conditions of this assistance would be voluntary.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 144 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008

CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION

Authorization Level	100	100	100	100	100	0
Estimated Outlays	3	20	35	60	80	80

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

S. 144 would authorize the appropriation of \$100 million a year over the 2003-2007 period for the Secretary of the Interior to make grants to states and Indian tribes to fund projects to study, control, or eradicate noxious weeds on public and private lands. Based on information from the Department of the Interior, CBO estimates that implementing this bill would cost \$3 million in 2003 and \$278 million over the 2003-2008 period, with additional spending occurring in later years. For this estimate, we assume S. 144 will be enacted by the middle of fiscal year 2003 and that authorized amounts would be provided as specified by the bill. Estimates of outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar activities.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 144 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Any costs incurred by those governments to comply with the conditions of this assistance would be voluntary.

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